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ABSTRACT

This paper begins with an overview of ERIC that provides background on the system's decentralized structure, the bibliographic database, document availability, and ERIC publications. The historical development of ERIC from the early 1960s is described and illustrated with a chronology of selected major ERIC events from 1965 to 1991 and a table listing directors and host organizations of Central ERIC, the ERIC Clearinghouses and the ERIC Support Contractors during the same period. Three strategies that contributed to the evolution of ERIC are then discussed: decentralized structure, leveraging with the private sector to achieve database dissemination, and document delivery as an essential service. Policy emphases identified by a 1986-87 redesign study of ERIC are listed, together with strategies for accomplishing these goals; and a review of the current status of the system is given in the form of a statistical summary covering funding, acquisitions, database input, microfiche distribution, publications, information requests, database users, and service providers through the year 1991. That same year was also the year of ERIC's 25th anniversary, and the article concludes with a consideration of ERIC initiatives for the rest of the 1990s, including: the identification, development, and dissemination of materials pertaining to the national education goals; full-text delivery of education materials; diversification of funding sources; coverage and delivery of non-print materials; expanded international activities; the promotion of increased collaboration through the activities of the ERIC Research and Development Partners; greater comprehensiveness of bibliographic coverage; and value-added services. (Contains 10 references.) (MSE)

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
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Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

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by

Ted Brandhorst, Director

ERIC Processing and Reference Facility

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The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

by

Ted Brandhorst

An Overview of ERIC

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a nationwide information system currently sponsored and supported by the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). ERIC was founded, in the mid-1960s, at the then Office of Education, for the purpose of achieving bibliographic control over the report literature produced by the agency and its many contractors. ERIC has since expanded to cover the education-related document and journal article literature wherever it is produced. ERIC collects, analyzes, catalogs, indexes, abstracts or annotates, announces, and makes available, documentary information from public, private, local, state, Federal, and international sources.

The decentralized structure of ERIC consists of a policy-making, funding, and monitoring Federal program office in the U.S. Department of Education (commonly referred to as *"Central ERIC"*), 16 subject-specific ERIC Clearinghouses (aided by a small number of volunteer *"Adjunct Clearinghouses"*), and three technical support contractors. Each Clearinghouse is responsible for collecting and processing the literature within a major segment of the field of education. The technical support contractors are: (1) the ERIC Processing and Reference Facility (for database editing and building, lexicography, and centralized computer processing); (2) the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) (for microfiche and document delivery); and (3) ACCESS ERIC (for outreach, marketing, and referral services).

ERIC's most well-known product is its bibliographic database, which through 1991 contains approximately 758,000 records (for over 328,000 documents and 430,000 journal articles). For this database, ERIC actively solicits technical reports, conference proceedings and papers, curriculum materials, project descriptions, evaluation and policy studies, and many other kinds of documents, serving all levels of the educational community, from the practitioner to the researcher. Items entering the database are announced, as appropriate, in one of ERIC's two monthly printed abstract journals: *Resources in Education* (RIE), covering documents (about 14,000 per year); and *Current Index to Journals in Education* (CIJE), covering journal articles (about 18,000 per year). The database is available for computer searching and retrieval via various online vendors (e.g., DIALOG, OCLC, and BRS) and CD-ROM vendors (e.g., SilverPlatter, DIALOG).

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Some 98 percent of the documents collected by ERIC are archived on microfiche and made available to libraries and users by EDRS on a subscription basis (through 1991 there were over 870 subscribers worldwide) or an on-demand basis. Some 80 percent of the journal articles selected by ERIC are available from standard reprint sources, such as University Microfilms International (UMI).

In addition to building the world's premier education-related bibliographic database, the ERIC components produce many publications of their own. The Clearinghouses prepare various syntheses, interpretative summaries, state-of-the-art reviews, annotated bibliographies, and digests (all told, over 200 publications per year). The support contractors produce a variety of directories, calendars, indexes, newsletters, and other reference and referral tools.

Historical Development

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the U.S. Office of Education found itself faced with a proliferation of unpublished reports emanating from increased Federal funding of research, exemplary programs, and demonstration projects. The first gropings for a solution to the problem--a system to control and disseminate Federally-sponsored education-related research papers--can be found in concept and feasibility studies dating back to 1960. For example, the first efforts to conceptualize an ERIC *Thesaurus*, i.e., a subject-indexing authority for such a future system, appeared in 1961. The concept of an overall ERIC *"system"*--combining document collection, cataloging, indexing, abstracting, announcement, archiving, and dissemination--began to emerge during this period under the leadership of Dr. Lee Burchinal; however, ERIC's gestation proved to be quite long. It wasn't until 1964 that an actual embryonic organizational unit called *"ERIC"* appeared within the Office of Education. Then in quick succession, however, a contract was let in 1965 for the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) and contracts were let in 1966 for the first twelve ERIC Clearinghouses and a central editorial and computer processing facility. In November 1966, the first issue of ERIC's abstract journal appeared, then called *Research in Education*, creating a convenient milestone from which to count future anniversaries.

In 1967, an additional six Clearinghouses were established, for a total of 18. Since then, the number has fluctuated in response to needs and priorities. There have been a total of 23 different ERIC Clearinghouses over the years, but the number has currently stabilized at 16. Also in 1967, the word *Research* in ERIC's name was changed to *Resources*, reflecting the emerging recognition that research results were not the only bibliographic resources that ERIC was going to collect. (Interestingly, the same switch of words in RIE's title didn't take place until much later, in January 1975.)

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Many of ERIC's basic organizing principles, still in use today, were determined very early in its life and reflect the careful planning of the founders. Much of the historical evolution of ERIC can be traced to the following three *"signature"* strategies:

- *Decentralized Structure.* Unlike the other monolithic government information centers that might have served as a model, ERIC decided to adopt a decentralized model. Education in the United States was--and still is--a decentralized enterprise, with power dispersed to the states and localities, professional associations, and teacher unions. Information was being developed at all these levels and a monolithic information center in Washington was not felt to be the best way to keep abreast of such a diffuse and dispersed community. Instead, a system of separate *"Clearinghouses"* was conceptualized, each concentrating on a major sector of the field of education and each bearing responsibility for acquiring the documentation of that subfield and for interacting with that particular part of the educational community.

  The same decentralized structure pertains today, and it has served ERIC well in coping with the many constituencies that comprise the field of education. Though decentralization is not without special problems of coordination and duplication caused by the geographically-separated system components, on balance the increased breadth of coverage, the diversity of contacts, and the variety of points of view represented, have ultimately been assessed as strengths that outweigh the operational problems.

- *"Leveraging" with the Private Sector to Achieve Database Dissemination.* Always modestly budgeted, ERIC was from the beginning forced to involve the private sector in an effort to *"leverage"* various dissemination products and services. ERIC had enough funds to create its bibliographic database, but not enough to create all the products and services that needed to be derived from that database.

  The micrographics contractor (EDRS), commercial publishers, and the online and CD-ROM vendors are all examples of organizations that provide ERIC products and services to the public, at no charge to the Government. ERIC, in effect, gives these organizations a license to , in the first case, microfilm ERIC documents; in the second case, publish the ERIC *Thesaurus* and *Current Index to Journals in Education*; and, in the third case, to include the ERIC database in commercial online and CD-ROM information retrieval systems. The for-profit sector organizations provide services and market products to the public, recovering their costs and making a profit in the process; the users, in turn, pay for what they specifically want, but pay no subsidy in tax dollars for those products and services.

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"Leveraging" is evident, to some extent, even in the Clearinghouse contracts, where the host organization holding the Clearinghouse contract typically provides ERIC with some services (e.g., in-kind personnel, printing, and office equipment) above and beyond those strictly required by the contract.

- *Document Delivery as an Essential Service.* The first ERIC contract, in 1965, before any of the Clearinghouses, established the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). This is an indication of how crucial the early planners viewed document delivery. Unlike many information systems, which simply tell users about the existence of an item without solving the problem of obtaining a copy, ERIC wanted to be able to actually deliver the vast majority of the items it announced. Partly this stance was dictated by the fugitive nature of the report literature. If ERIC had not offered availability, the problems and frustrations of the users in this area would probably have led to more criticism that any system could bear. Be that as it may, ERIC was founded on the principle of closing the loop for the user as much as possible.

  The over 870 ERIC microfiche collections that exist around the world, built up regularly through annual subscriptions, together with the ready on-demand availability of documents in microfiche and reproduced paper copy from the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS), represent one of the strongest links in the ERIC chain of services.

While structural decentralization, private sector leveraging, and guaranteed document delivery are perhaps the major basic strategies of ERIC, there are several other lesser strategies that might be mentioned.

- The bibliographic database as a fundamental foundation for the system, on which most other products and services are built and connected in some way or other.

- Primary coverage devoted to that part of the educational literature that is not handled adequately by anybody else, i.e., the report/fugitive/"gray" literature, encompassing such things as contractor reports, conference papers, curriculum materials, etc., but generally not including the commercially-published book literature.

- Relevance to all levels of the educational community, from the teacher concerned with tomorrow's lesson to the professor engaged in research. This implies an acquisitions net that is cast widely and that encompasses both the theoretical and the practical.

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- A wide distribution of ERIC information, including both to the regular education community (teachers, administrators, researchers, counselors, students, etc.) as well as to parents, policy-makers, and the media, at the lowest possible cost.

- A database that changes in response to changing conditions. ERIC's acquisitions and selection criteria have been modified over time in response to new priorities (e.g., the inclusion of machine-readable data files), and new fields have periodically been added to improve searchability and discrimination (e.g., Publication Type, Target Audience). In 1990, the full text of certain selected documents (i.e., two-page ERIC Digests) became available to online users.

ERIC "Redesign"

In 1986-1987, there occurred perhaps the single most significant event in the development of ERIC since is birth. This was called the *ERIC Redesign Study*, a top-to-bottom examination that involved the internal staff at the Department of Education, an outside panel of reviewers, and numerous critiques from the field. This intense examination of ERIC culminated in a widely-discussed paper titled *ERIC In Its Third Decade* (Bencivenga 1987, in ED 278 429). Later that same year, on July 30, 1987, the House Subcommittee on Select Education sponsored the first oversight hearings on ERIC (ED 287 519). As a result of these activities, three main policy emphases were identified for ERIC's immediate future:

- ERIC products and services should become more widely used and available;

- ERIC should become better integrated into OERI's mission of gathering, analyzing, and reporting information on the status and condition of American education.

- ERIC should serve a wider, more diverse audience, including policy-makers, journalists, practitioners, and the general public.

Some of the strategies for accomplishing these goals included:

- **ACCESS ERIC**, the first new system component in over two decades, to serve as an outreach arm for ERIC, strengthening the areas of marketing, publicity, advertising, and public relations, and helping to actively disseminate ERIC's products and services (call 1-800-USE-ERIC).

- **Adjunct Clearinghouses** as an aid to achieving better coverage of the literature and as a source of volunteer financial support. Through 1991, ERIC has Adjunct Clearinghouses in the areas of Literacy Education for Limited-English-Proficient Adults, Art Education, U.S.-Japan Studies, Compensatory Education, and Consumer Education.

- **ERIC Partners** as an attempt to multiply ERIC's dissemination efforts and to achieve a wider audience via the marshalling of its major users. ERIC's network of over 500 Partners routinely receive and re-distribute ERIC materials to their own organizational members. The improved integration of ERIC with OERI's other major programs, such as the Research and Development Centers and the Regional Educational Laboratories, has also received attention. The ERIC Clearinghouses are now actively producing publications in partnership with these units, the flow of products from these units to the ERIC database is now more routinized, and, ERIC, the Labs, and the Centers now regularly participate in joint planning and dissemination activities.

Present Day Status and Statistical Summary (through 1991)

Throughout the decade of the 1980s, ERIC's annual funding stayed level at around $5 million. With the 1990s, ERIC's annual funding has risen somewhat to around $6 million. With this sum, ERIC supports 16 Clearinghouse contractors, three support contractors, and certain systemwide services such as printing at GPO. The average Clearinghouse contract size is now approximately $300,000. The ACCESS ERIC contract is approximately $400,000. The ERIC Facility contract is approximately $750,000. The EDRS contract is basically a no-cost-to-the-Government arrangement. The consensus of reviewers is that ERIC achieves an extraordinary amount of end product for its modest funding.

ERIC has established and maintains a network of over 1,600 acquisitions arrangements with organizations that regularly send ERIC their education-related document output. These arrangements, and other acquisitions efforts, bring in approximately 30,000 documents annually for evaluation and application of selection criteria.

From the total input, approximately 14,000 documents and 18,000 journal articles are selected for the database and are processed (cataloged, indexed, abstracted or annotated, and announced). The total database through 1991 contains approximately 758,000 records and is growing at a rate of about 32,000 records annually. The two monthly abstract journals (RIE and CIJE) have approximately 2,000 subscribers each and are also distributed to over 1,000 U.S. Depository libraries and (via the Library of Congress) to nearly 85 foreign governments and institutions.

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The ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) services approximately 870 regular subscribers to the entire ERIC microfiche collection. Approximately 17,000,000 microfiche cards are distributed to these subscribers annually. In addition, EDRS fulfills annually approximately 15,000 on-demand orders for microfiche or reproduced paper copy.

The Clearinghouses, in addition to their database-building efforts, produce over 200 information-synthesizing publications annually, over a million copies of which are disseminated annually to diverse audiences.

The entire ERIC network of organizations receives over 100,000 information requests annually, each of which is responded to individually.

The total ERIC activity at all online vendors combined is estimated at around 100,000 users, (from 90 countries), conducting 450,000 individual online searches, and expending approximately 100,000 connect hours. ERIC is regularly counted as around the 4th or 5th most searched bibliographic database in the world. The number of CD-ROM subscriptions serviced by all vendors is estimated at around 3,000.

The biannual *Directory of ERIC Information Service Providers* identifies approximately 900 locations that provide some level of service pertaining to the ERIC database (800 domestic locations; 120 foreign locations spread across 24 countries). These organizations either maintain ERIC microfiche collections, subscribe to the ERIC abstract journals and other ERIC publications, or perform computer searches of the ERIC database for clients.

ERIC in the 1990s

ERIC celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1991. It was a time for considering the new tasks and directions that face it as it enters its second quarter-century of service to American education. Eight program improvement initiatives have been formally identified below. These initiatives should occupy and characterize ERIC in the 1990s.

1. *ERIC in the Schools and Community--Achieving the National Education Goals.* In its quarter-century history, ERIC has evolved into a comprehensive system widely recognized as the premier source of information for planning education activities, developing new programs, carrying out research, and making program decisions. The ERIC Clearinghouses are now giving priority to the identification, development and dissemination of high-quality materials pertaining to the six *"National Education Goals"* established by the President and state Governors in 1989, and to be achieved by the year 2000.

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ERIC has already begun to work with a number of schools implementing school-based management to assure that critical information is available from which to make informed decisions, e.g., ERIC on CD-ROM, an EDRS collection of ERIC documents on microfiche, full-text CD-ROM products (if available), and access to other key education information sources.

2. *Full-text Delivery of Education Materials.* Long-discussed in the ERIC system, some first steps have recently been taken to provide electronic full-text access to selected materials. The ERIC Digests Online (EDO) full-text file--now available online through DIALOG, GTE Education Services, and PLATO--is one such example. (Digests are brief two-page highly compressed reports on topics of prime current interest in education.)

   Also, ERIC has been working with the private sector to develop a prototype CD-ROM product containing the full text of hundreds of key education documents and journal articles, as well as complete issues of approximately 100 core education journals. The "Compact ERIC" is envisioned as containing the most important, significant, and useful documents and articles announced in ERIC. These materials are essentially of two types: first, major policy and goals papers, major commission reports, major Department of Education publications, significant evaluation reports and research syntheses. Second, it will also contain the best items in ERIC intended for practical use by teachers, principals, school district administrators, curriculum coordinators, guidance counselors, other school professionals, and parents, including carefully selected teaching-related materials, theory-into-practice research results, curricular and classroom materials, and reference and resource guides.

3. *Diversification of Funding Sources.* ERIC has long recognized the desirability of obtaining support from other components both within and outside the Department of Education (ED). Adjunct Clearinghouses--a few of which are already supported by funding from other parts of the Department and foundations, are one manifestation of how outside support can be used; however, ERIC may also seek support from specific program offices--within ED and elsewhere--to help subsidize expanded coverage and comprehensiveness in specific topic areas of interest to those programs and their constituents. In addition, ERIC is pursuing some options by which reasonable usage fees can be collected from online vendors, CD-ROM vendors, and other commercial purveyors of the ERIC database to the public (in the past, ERIC has charged no fees or royalties for use of its database).

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4. *Coverage and Delivery of Non-Print Materials.* ERIC has, with some exceptions, concentrated on the document and journal literature. While ERIC has paid increasing attention in recent years to identifying and indexing some of the major education-related machine-readable statistical files, questions remain about what ERIC's role should be in acquiring, indexing and even disseminating non-print materials, including, but not limited to, videotapes, multi-media packages, computer diskettes, CD-ROMs, interactive laserdiscs, etc. While it is clear that ERIC could pay increasing attention to such materials, cost-effective procedures for copying and disseminating such materials (even assuming copyright permission could be obtained) appear much more problematic.

5. *Expanded International Activities.* ERIC has been planning or participating in several activities designed to both expand the overseas dissemination of U.S.-developed education information, and to broaden its access to foreign-produced materials. Some activities and ideas for the greater *"internationalization"* of ERIC include: cooperative work now underway with the International Association of Universities and UNESCO to develop a worldwide bibliography of higher education materials; discussions with the United States Information Agency (USIA) and the Agency for International Development (AID) on ways to make ERIC materials and stand-alone CD-ROM retrieval systems involving ERIC available to developing nations (all overseas British Council libraries already have ERIC available on CD-ROM); by cooperating with ERIC-equivalent organizations in other English-speaking countries in order to develop greater compatibility and less duplication among education databases; and, by establishing ERIC nodes on the major international computer networks, e.g., BITNET, INTERNET, to facilitate document and information exchange.

6. *ERIC Research and Development Partners.* While many commercial and academic organizations use ERIC products for their own purposes, few have established any meaningful collaborative R&D projects with the ERIC system. Over 125 documents, articles, and study reports about the ERIC system have been produced in the past six years, but they are rarely done in collaboration or even consultation with either OERI or the ERIC components. This element of collaboration would be a valuable step toward ensuring that research and development activities related to ERIC products and services will have a direct and positive effect on improving access and use of education information in the schools. In conjunction with the ERIC system components, *"ERIC R&D Partners"* can help to develop targeted new products and services, applications of new technologies to improve the selective dissemination of education information, and enhanced coverage of the education field.

7. *Greater Comprehensiveness of Bibliographic Coverage.* With ERIC's limited resources, ERIC Clearinghouses have always had to make difficult decisions about which documents and journal articles would be indexed for inclusion in the ERIC database. For instance,

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though *Current Index to Journals in Education* claims to cover about 800 journals, very few of those are actually indexed cover-to-cover. Most journals are indexed selectively; that is, not all of the education-related articles are cited in the ERIC database. Under discussion is a list of *"core education journals"* that will be uniformly indexed cover-to-cover in the future. A related issue concerns the published book literature; that is, monographic materials generally produced commercially and accessible through regular library systems: should ERIC expand its coverage to such materials?

8. *Value-added Services.* In contributing to the prototype Compact ERIC full-text product on CD-ROM, ERIC Clearinghouses were asked to determine which materials from the ERIC database should be included in a highly-selective compilation of practice and policy-oriented materials. On an ongoing basis, the Clearinghouses are continuing to identify these *"best"* materials. How can ERIC most constructively continue this emphasis on assessing the quality of documents and journal articles selected for the database?

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Selected Bibliographic Resources[1]:

1. **Bencivenga, James J.; And Others.**
ERIC Redesign. Papers Issued for Public Comment, 1986-1987. Educational Resources Information Center, Washington, DC, April 1987. 60p. (ED 278 429).

2. **Brandhorst, Ted, Ed.**
Bibliography of Publications About ERIC. ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, Rockville, MD.
Issued irregularly; issues to date are as follows:
ED 169 955 1964 - 1978 269 Citations
ED 262 784 1979 - 1984 131 Citations
ED 308 874 1985 - 1988 107 Citations
(This is the best source of information concerning what has been written about ERIC.)

3. **Brandhorst, Ted.**
"What are the Possibilities for Coordinating Education Information Databases?" Knowledge in Society; v3 n2 p.45-57 Summer 1990.

4. **"Educational Resources Information Center".**
Report appearing annually in The Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac. R.R. Bowker Co., New Providence, NJ. (This is a condensed version of the ERIC Annual Report, appearing in a widely available reference book.)

5. **ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, Rockville, Maryland.**
ERIC Processing Manual. Rules and Guidelines for the Acquisition, Selection, and Technical Processing of Documents and Journal Articles by the Various Components of the ERIC Network. 1980- . Looseleaf, approximately 800 pages. (ED 219 082). Published in ten chapters and two appendices: Introduction, Acquisitions, Selection, Handling and Shipping, Cataloging, Abstracting/Annotating, Indexing, Vocabulary Development and Maintenance, Data Entry, Database Changes (Post Publication), ERIC Clearinghouse Scope of Interest Guide (Appendix A), Glossary (Appendix B). (The best source of information about the interaction of ERIC's components and the rules followed in building its database.)

[1]The "ED" accession number identifies documents in the ERIC database. Items with an ED number can be found in the ERIC microfiche collection and can be ordered from EDRS.

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6. **Hoover, Charles and Brandhorst, Ted.**
Development and Current Status of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC). A Model Bibliographic Control System Covering the Literature of Education in the United States. Paper presented at the International Meeting on Educational Documentation: Present and Future (Florence, Italy, May 31-June 4, 1982). 36p. (ED 221 171).

7. **Office of Educational Research and Improvement.**
ERIC Annual Report. (Summarizing the Accomplishments of the Educational Resources Information Center). U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.
Issued annually; available from Central ERIC.
ED 301 192/193 covers 1987
ED 313 057 covers 1988
ED 322 934 covers 1989
(This is the best source of current statistical information concerning ERIC.)

8. **Stonehill, Robert M.**
"The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC): A System Faces Its Future." Knowledge in Society; v3 n2 p.67-80 Summer 1990.

9. **Trester, Delmer J.**
ERIC--The First Fifteen Years, A History of the Educational Resources Information Center. National Institute of Education, Washington, DC. July 1979. 385p. (ED 195 289). (This is the best source of historical information concerning ERIC's early years.)

10. **U.S. Congress. House of Representatives.**
Oversight Hearing on OERI (The ERIC System). Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and Labor. House of Representatives, 100th Congress, First Session. Washington, DC. July 30, 1987. 181p. (ED 287 519).

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Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events

(1960-1991)

1959-60
- Conceptualization and Feasibility Studies

1961
- Thesaurus Conceptual Development (Western Reserve University)
- ERIC Name Coined

1964
- ERIC Founded

1965
- ERIC Funded (ESEA)
- EDRS Contract to Bell & Howell (November)

1966
- Panel on Educational Terminology (PET) Established
- Clearinghouses 1-12 Established
- ERIC Facility Contract to North American Rockwell (May)
- "Birth" of ERIC -- Full Implementation (June)
- *Research in Education* (RIE) Appears (November)

1967
- Clearinghouses 13-18 Established
- ERIC's Name Changed to "Educational Resources" (July)
- EDRS Contract to National Cash Register (December)
- *Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors* First Published

1968
- Clearinghouse on Teacher Education Established

1969
- *Research in Education* Put on GPO Linotron
- CIJE Journal Publication Appears (Macmillan)

1970
- ERIC Facility Contract to Leasco Systems & Research Corp.
- Clearinghouses on Educational Management; Social Science Education; Tests, Measurement, and Evaluation Established
- ERIC Database Users Conference (First)
- ERICTAPES/ERICTOOLS Program Begun

1971
- EDRS Contract to LIPCO
- ERIC Database Goes Online with Lockheed (DIALOG)

1972
- Rand Report on ERIC's Structure and Organization (ED 058 508)
- Clearinghouses on Languages and Linguistics; Reading and Communication Skills Established. (Both Amalgamations of Two Existing Clearinghouses)
- ERIC Moves from OE to NIE (July)
- ERIC Facility User Services Program Begun
- *Interchange* Newsletter Begun
- ERIC Facility Contract Retained by Operations Research, Inc. (Formerly Leasco Systems & Research, Inc.
- Fry Study of ERIC Products and Services (ED 060 923-926)

1973
- Clearinghouse on Career Education Established (Replaces Vocational and Technical Education)
- Field User Participation in Improving Indexing Vocabulary Initiated
- ERICTAPES Program Distributes 1000th Tape

1974
- Clearinghouse on Information Resources Established (Replaces Library and Information Sciences)
- Clearinghouse on Urban Education (Formerly Disadvantaged)
- EDRS Contract Awarded to CMIC (Vesicular Microfiche)
- First Revision and Expansion of the *ERIC Processing Manual* Completed
- Publication Type Data Element Added to File

1975
- RIE File Achieves 100,000th ED Number Accession
- ***Research*** *in Education* Changes Name to ***Resources*** *in Education*
- ERIC Receives National Micrographics Association Award "for Outstanding Contributions to Micrographics"

1976
- ERIC Converts to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Data Entry
- All Images on ERIC Microfiche Filmed in "Right-Reading" Orientation

Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events

(1960-1991)

1977

- Vocabulary Improvement (VIP) Initiated -- Complete Revision of *Thesaurus*
- National Dissemination Forum Subsumes ERIC Users Conference
- ERIC Technical Steering Committee Formed
- UMI Reprint Service for CIJE Articles Inaugurated

1978

- State Technical Assistance Trips Initiated (Fostering Compatibility with ERIC Files)
- *ERIC Document Reproducibility Guidelines* Completed
- Complimentary Distribution of Microfiche to Authors Begun
- New Data Elements for Geographic Source, Language, and Government Level Begun
- ERIC Clearinghouse Information Analysis Products (IAP) Annual Bibliography Series Begun by Facility

1979

- NIE/OPA Reference Correspondence Assigned to ERIC Facility (20,000 Letters per Year)
- RIE Produced via Videocomp Photocomposer (Replaces Linotron)
- Oryx Press Becomes CIJE Contractor (Replaces Macmillan)
- Price Codes Replace Specific Prices in RIE
- Publication Type Index Added to RIE
- ERIC Database Achieves On-Third of a Million Accessions

1980

- Vocabulary Improvement Project Completed (New *Thesaurus* Published)
- Last ERIC Users Conference Held at American Library Assoc. (ALA) Annual Conference
- NBS Study of "Technology-Based Improvement of ERIC System" Completed (Treu Report) (ED-190 127)
- *History of ERIC* Completed (ED 195 289)
- NIE Moves Into New Department of Education
- *ERIC Processing Manual* (EPM) totally revised and expanded edition begins publication (as sections are completed) (ED 219 082)
- Direct online transmission of bibliographic data from Clearinghouses to Facility begins to replace OCR (as Clearinghouses acquire equipment)
- RIE Highlights pages initiated
- "Submitting Documents to ERIC" acquisitions brochure developed

1981

- "Pocket Guide to ERIC" brochure developed
- *Identifier Authority List* (IAL) -- new ERICTOOL developed
- "Cost and Usage Study of the ERIC System" (King Report) (ED-208 902)
- State Technical Assistance visits during previous 3 years summarized (total of 19 visits)

1982

- Department of Education prepared or sponsored documents provided by ERIC to GPO on monthly basis (for GPO *Monthly Catalog* and depository library system). ED numbers and EDRS availability provided.
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)--ERIC arranges to input all NAEP-produced and NAEP-related documents and to code for special NAEP retrieval needs

1983

- Practice File Project--practitioner-oriented documents identified in ERIC database (backfile and current) and emphasized in current acquisitions
- ERIC database achieves 500,000th (one half million) accessions
- National Commission on Excellence in Education (and "spinoff" commissions/committees) begins to issue reports. ERIC makes special effort to collect, control, and disseminate "Excellence" reports
- IBM-PC/XT microcomputers acquired by Facility for electronic mail, word processing, online files, and other applications

1984

- New Publication Types added to the ERIC database: "Multilingual/Bilingual Materials (171); "Computer Programs" (101); "ERIC Clearinghouse Publications" (071)
- "Target Audience" data element officially added to ERIC database, as a major outcome of the Practice File Project
- Electronic mail system (Based on MULTILINK) made operational for ERIC Clearinghouses, using ERIC Facility's IBM-PC/XT
- Direct online transmission of bibliographic data (RIE and CIJE) to Facility completed for all Clearinghouses

1985

- ERIC participates in IBE meeting on International Network for Educational Documentation (INED), May 20-24, 1985, Geneva, Switzerland
- ERIC begins work with NCES on "Locator" file dealing with education-related numeric/statistical databases
- ERIC begins work on coordinating with BEBA (Bilingual) database; analyzes degree of overlap with ERIC database
- Internal NIE/OERI staff review of ERIC initiated (resulting in "ERIC Redesign" project, with external panel, in 1986)
- Practitioner-oriented documents in ERIC determined, through two independent analyses to be between 26% and 31% of input
- NIE reorganization

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Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events

(1960-1991)

1986

- *Directory of ERIC Information Service Providers* (June 1986) (combination of prior directories of microfiche collections and search services)
- Social Sciences/Social Studies Clearinghouse shifts to Indiana University (From Social Science Education Consortium, Colorado)
- NIE changes name to Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
- First "InterEd" meeting (August 1986)--representatives of ERIC, *Australian Education Index, British Education Index, Canadian Education Inde:*
- First ERIC-on-CDROM disc shipped by SilverPlatter/ORI (August)
- ERIC's 20th Anniversary (November)
- EDRS changes from vesicular film to diazo film (March)
- "ERIC Redesign" project starts (May) (resulting in "ERIC in its Third Decade" report in December) (ED-278 429)

1987

- "ERIC Redesign" generates broad array of reaction papers and public response (hundreds of letters)--analysis of reactions modified plans
- Congressional oversight hearings on ERIC (July 30) (ED-287-519)
- GPO announces RIE price reduction (to $51/year)
- RIE "Trademark" renewed
- Online-in process file project started at Facility (for duplicate checking by Clearinghouses)
- ERIC joins APDU and IASSIST (in connection with ERICSTAT project to announce data files)
- ERIC Facility funding reduction (10% Gramm-Rudman)
- All ERIC Clearinghouse contracts competed simultaneously
- ERIC *Thesaurus* (11th edition) published (January)
- "ERICSTAT" project identifies education-related data files and develops cataloging conventions

1988

- Rural Education Clearinghouse shifts to Appalachia Educational Laboratory (from New Mexico State University)
- Reading and Communication Skills Clearinghouse shifts to Indiana Univ. (from NCTE)
- New cover for RIE (January)
- ERIC begins to announce Machine-Readable Data Files (MRDF) in RIE (January)
- Tests, Measurement, and Evaluation Clearinghouse shifts to American Institutes for Research (from ETS)
- EDRS initiates "ERIC After Hours" ordering service
- ERIC *Thesaurus* used as baseline vocabulary for *British Education Thesaurus* and *Canadian Education Thesaurus*
- ERIC Digests Online (EDO) full-text file prepared initially by PS Clearinghouse (shifted later to ERIC Facility)
- "ERIC Annual Report" initiated (first issue covers 1987)

1989

- ACCESS ERIC (new ERIC component for outreach) contract awarded to Aspen Systems Inc. (May)
- "ERIC Partners" project (the marshalling of ERIC's major users) initiated (350 achieved by year-end)
- First "Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouses" (no-cost-to-ERIC volunteers) inaugurated: Literacy Education for Limited-English-Proficient Adults; Art Education; U.S. Japan Studies; Compensatory Education (Chapter 1). Help to improve coverage in specialized areas.
- *Directory of Education-Related Information Centers* (other than ERIC) inaugurated by ACCESS ERIC (for use in providing referral services).
- "Compact ERIC" project to investigate storing the full-text of selected "best" ERIC documents and articles on optical media begins as joint effort with UMI.

1990/1991

- ERIC *Thesaurus* (12th edition) published in 1990
- *ERIC Review* inaugurated by ACCESS ERIC in 1990
- ERIC achieves first budget increase in a decade (from $5.7 to $6.5 million)
- ERIC Digests Online (EDO) File mounted online by DIALOG, PLATO, and GTE Education Services
- EDRS contract shifts to CBIS Federal Inc. (from Computer Microfilm Corp.) at end of 1990
- President's six " National Education Goals" and "America 2000" project begin to impact ERIC's products and services
- Second InterEd meeting (October 1991)

ERIC DIRECTORS, 1965-1991*

(Central ERIC, Clearinghouses, and Support Contractors)

Prefix	CENTRAL ERIC	Year	Director	Host Organization	Notes
CERIC	Central ERIC	1965-66 1966-70 1970-78 1978-82 1982-85 1985-87 1988-	Harold A. Haswell Harvey Marron Charles W. Hoover Robert E. Chesley Charles W. Hoover Alan Moorehead Robert M. Stonehill	Office of Education (OE) Office of Education (OE) National Institute of Education (NIE) National Institute of Education (NIE) National Institute of Education (NIE Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), U.S. Department of Education	

Prefix	ERIC CLEARINGHOUSES	Year	Director	Host Organization	Notes
AC	Adult Education	1967-72 1973	Roger DeCrow Stanley Grabowski	Syracuse University Syracuse University	Merged into CE in 1973
AL	Linguistics	1966-71	A. Hood Roberts	Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)	Merged into FL in 1971
CE	Adult, Career, and Vocational Education (formerly Career Education)	1973-75 1976-79 1980-87 1987-	David Tiedeman Marla Peterson Juliet Miller Susan Imel	Northern Illinois University Ohio State University Ohio State University Ohio State University	
CG	Counseling and Personnel Services	1966-	Garry R. Walz	University of Michigan	
CS	Reading and Communication Skills	1972-83 1984-87 1988-	Bernard O'Donnell Charles Suhor Carl Smith	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Indiana University	

Prefix	ERIC CLEARINGHOUSES	Year	Director	Host Organization	Notes
EA	Educational Management	1966-67 1967 1968-69 1969-	Ione F. Pierron Philip K. Piele (Acting) Terry L. Eidell Philip K. Piele	University of Oregon University of Oregon University of Oregon University of Oregon	
EC	Handicapped and Gifted Children	1966-69 1969-70 1970-90 1990	June Jordan Paul Ackerman Donald K. Erickson Frederick Weintraub	Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)	
EF	Educational Facilities	1967-68 1969-70	John Yurkovich Howard Wakefield	University of Wisconsin University of Wisconsin	Merged into EA in 1970
EM	Educational Media and Technology	1967-68 1969-70 1971-72 1972-73	Wilbur Schramm William Paisley Donald Coombs Richard E. Clark	Stanford University Stanford University Stanford University Stanford University	Merged into IR in 1973
FL	Languages and Linguistics	1966-70 1971-74 1974-78 1978-80 1981-86 1986-	Kenneth W . Mildenberger Warren Born A. Hood Roberts Peter A. Eddy John L. D. Clark Charles W. Stansfield	Modern Language Association (MLA) Modern Language Association (MLA) Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)	
HE	Higher Education	1968-69 1969-74 1974-77 1977-	Lloyd H. Elliott Carl J. Lange Peter Muirhead Jonathan D. Fife	George Washington University George Washington University George Washington University George Washington University	
IR	Information Resources	1973-74 1974-77 1977-90 1990-	Richard E. Clark Lewis Mayhew Donald P. Ely Michael B. Eisenberg	Stanford University Stanford University Syracuse University Syracuse University	
JC	Junior Colleges	1966-	Arthur M. Cohen	University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)	
LI	Library and Information Science	1967-70 1970-73	Wesley Simonton Herbert R. Koller	University of Minnesota American Society for Information Science (ASIS)	Merged into IR in 1974
PS	Elementary and Early Childhood Education	1967-70 1970-	Brian W. Carss Lilian G. Katz	University of Illinois University of Illinois	

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Prefix	ERIC CLEARINGHOUSES	Year	Director	Host Organization	Notes
RC	Rural Education and Small Schools	1966-68	Alfred M. Potts	New Mexico State University	
			Darrell S. Willey	New Mexico State University	
		1968-84	Everett Eddington	New Mexico State University	
		1984-86	Jack P. Cole	New Mexico State University	
		1986-87	Betty Rose Rios	New Mexico State University	
		1988-89	C. Todd Strohmenger	Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL)	
		1990-	C. Todd Strohmenger (Co)	Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL)	
			Craig B. Howley (Co)		
RE	Reading	1966-68	Edward G. Summers	Indiana University	Merged into CS in 1972
			Leo Fay	Indiana University	
		1969-72	James Laffey	Indiana University	
SE	Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education	1966-68	John S. Richardson	Ohio State University	
		1968-90	Robert Howe	Ohio State University	
		1990-91	Patricia E. Blosser (Acting)	Ohio State University	
		1991-	David Haury	Ohio State University	
SO	Social Studies/Social Science Education	1970-75	Nicholas Helburn	Social Science Education Consortium, Inc.	
		1975-85	Irving Morrissett	Social Science Education Consortium, Inc.	
		1985-	John J. Patrick	Indiana University	
SP	Teacher Education (formerly School Personnel)	1966-68	Leonard J. West	City University of New York	
		1968-74	Joel L Burdin	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
		1974-76	Joost Yff	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
		1976-81	Karl Massanari	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
		1981-83	Joost Yff	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
		1983	Michael Butler (acting)	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
		1983-87	Elizabeth Ashburn	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
		1987-	Mary Dilworth	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)	
TE	Teaching of English	1967-72	Bernard O'Donnell	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)	Merged into CS in 1972
TM	Tests, Measurement, and Evaluation	1970-72	Henry S. Dyer	Educational Testing Service	
		1972-87	S. Donald Melville	Educational Testing Service	
		1987	Gary J. Echternacht	Educational Testing Service	
		1988-	Lawrence M. Rudner	American Institutes for Research	
UD	Urban Education (formerly Urban Disadvantaged)	1966-68	Edmund W. Gordon	Yeshiva University	
			Doxey A. Wilkerson	Yeshiva University	
		1968-79	Edmund W. Gordon	Teachers College, Columbia University	
		1979-	Erwin Flaxman	Teachers College, Columbia University	
VT	Vocational and Technical Education	1966-70	Robert E. Taylor	Ohio State University	Merged into CE in 1973
		1970-73	Joel H. Magisos	Ohio State University	

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Prefix	SUPPORT CONTRACTORS	Year	Director	Host Organization	Notes
AA	ERIC Processing and Reference Facility	1966-68 1969 1970-	Joseph L. Ebersole Richard McCord Wesley T. (Ted) Brandhorst	North American Aviation North American Rockwell Documentation Inc./Leasco/Operations Research Inc./ORI, Inc./ ARC Professional Services Group	
AE	Access ERIC	1989-90 1990-	Samuel Fustukjian Beverly Swanson	Aspen Systems Corp. Aspen Systems Corp.	
EDRS	ERIC Document Reproduction Service	1965-67 1968-71 1971-72 1972-74 1974-75 1976-82 1982 1983-90 1991-	L. Block Charles Koppa Jim Brown James A. Jaffe Carl Koch Charles Sauer Jack N. Veale Tom Glacken Victor G. Fortin John E. Gracza	Bell & Howell, Inc. National Cash Register (NCR) Co. Leasco Information Products, Inc. (LIPCO) Leasco Information Products, Inc. (LIPCO) Computer Microfilm International (CMIC) Corp. Computer Microfilm International (CMIC) Corp. Computer Microfilm International (CMIC) Corp. Computer Microfilm International (CMIC) Corp. CBIS Federal, Inc.	